THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Government are committed to resolving outstanding differences on the boundary question, through peaceful means and in a fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable and proactive manner. The two sides have each appointed a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been eleven meetings. The Boundary Question was discussed during PM's visit to China from 13 to 15 January, 2008. The two Prime Ministers said, "The two sides remain firmly committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations. The two sides reiterate their determination to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question and to build a boundary of peace and friendship on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question concluded in April, 2005. The Special Representatives shall complete at an early date the task of arriving at an agreed framework settlement on the basis of this Agreement."

The next meeting of the Special Representatives of the two countries will be held at a mutually convenient time to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Indian Ambassador to China

2712. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Ambassador to China was summoned by the Chinese foreign office in the midnight to lodge protest and handed over list of places of likely demonstrations by the Tibetan refugees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to lodge its protest for Chinese high handedness;

(c) whether due to this reason a Cabinet Minister's official trip has been cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On the evening of 21 March, 2008 some Tibetan refugees forcibly entered the premises of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi. Government took prompt action in apprehending them. Later that same evening the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought a meeting with our Ambassador in Beijing and expressed their appreciation at the prompt action taken by Government. They also requested Government to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure the security of Chinese diplomatic and consular establishments as well as the safety of Chinese citizens. Our Ambassador said that all necessary steps are being taken in this regard.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.